

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: October 29, 2007

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on October 19, 2007

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Mary A. Gade
Regional Administrator

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The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Emergency Response, Train Derailment, Painesville, Ohio

On October 10, 2007, a CSX freight train derailed and caught fire in Painesville, Ohio. Thirty-one cars of the train derailed. Six of the derailed cars contained ethanol, one contained liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), one contained bio-diesel, one contained phthalic anhydride, and the remaining carried corn, wheat or plastic. Approximately 1300 people were evacuated within a half-mile radius of the incident due to the explosion threat from the LPG tank car and the toxicity of the phthalic anhydride. United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Joe Fredle responded with technical assistance, and air and water monitoring, as did the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) and local Health Department. As of October, 14, 2007, the fires were out and the evacuation had been canceled. U.S. EPA demobilized and the Ohio EPA agreed to follow up on any soil and water cleanup and disposal issues.

Contact: Joe Fredle (440-250-1740)

Emergency Response, Residential Mercury Spill, Bensenville, Illinois

On October 5, 2007, the Village of Bensenville Fire Department (BFD) reported a mercury release to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). Mr. Aaron Martin with IDPH reported the incident to U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Verneta Simon and filed an incident report with the National Response Center. According to the incident report, the mercury release was from an unknown source in the basement wall of a residence in Bensenville, Illinois. In addition, the unsuspecting homeowner and renovator were not even aware that the silver material that had come from a demolished basement wall was mercury. It appears that from September 21 to October 4, 2007, this home was being renovated, and mercury was being collected with a dust pan, shop vac, and disposed of unknowingly into trash receptacles. The Bensenville Fire Department responded on October 4 and secured the home. On October 5, OSC Verneta Simon and the Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) contractor checked the homeowner's temporary residence in Bensenville and found only shoes that needed to be disposed of as mercury-contaminated. During the week of October 8, U.S. EPA remediated the home.

On October 18, 2007, Public Affairs Specialist Ginny Narsete and OSC Verneta Simon canvassed the neighborhood and talked with residents about the mercury cleanup at the nearby home.

Contacts: Ginny Narsete (312-886-4359)
Verneta Simon (312-886-3601)

Removal Start, Prairieland Steel Site, Havana, Illinois

On October 12, 2007, U.S. EPA Region 5 started a time-critical removal action at the Prairieland Steel site located in Havana, Illinois. Prior to 1990, the facility produced industrial strength wire by drawing raw material stock stainless steel through dies to give the wire the desired shape and thickness. Lead dross was used as a lubricant in this process. In 1996, Prairieland Steel stopped operating at the site. A site assessment conducted by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency found total lead at up to 45,000 parts per million (ppm) in a waste pile and a concentration of 360 milligrams per liter (mg/l) pursuant to the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP). The removal action will involve the excavation and off-site disposal of approximately 1000 tons of contaminated soils

and the capping of a lead contaminated concrete pad. The removal action is expected to be completed in early November.

Contact: Mike Ribordy (312-886-4592)

Five-Year Review Report Completed, Allied Paper, Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site, Kalamazoo, Michigan

On October 19, 2007, the Region 5 Superfund Division issued the first Five-Year Review Report for the Allied Paper Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund site, located in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The site consists of six operable units (OUs). Record of Decisions (RODs) were issued for OU3 (February 1998), OU4 (September 2001), and OU2 (September 2006); the remaining OUs (OU1, OU5, and OU7) are in different stages in the Superfund cleanup process. The remedies selected for OU3, OU4, and OU2 include: consolidation and containment of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-contaminated material; landfill cap over waste material; long-term monitoring; and deed restrictions limiting development of the property. The remedy has been constructed at OU3; is under construction at OU4; and has not yet been constructed at OU2.

The five-year review concluded that the remedy at OU3 is protective of human health and the environment in the short term. However, in order for the remedy to be protective in the long term, effective institutional controls needs to be implemented and methane gas that has migrated off-site needs to be mitigated. The remedy at OU4 is not protective of human health and the environment because exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risks are not controlled.

Contact: Shari Kolak (312-886-6151)

Expedited Settlement Agreement Filed, PVS Technologies, Inc., Detroit, Michigan

On October 17, 2007, the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section filed an Expedited Settlement Agreement (ESA) with PVS Technologies, Inc., in Detroit, Michigan. In the ESA, U.S. EPA alleges that PVS Technologies, Inc., violated areas of implementation of the Risk Management Program, 40 CFR Part 68. PVS Technologies, Inc., manufactures and markets chemicals used in the treatment of water. Some of the more serious violations included: failing to retain Process Hazard Analyses and

validations for each covered process, as well as the resolution of recommendations for the life of the process; failing to certify annually that operating procedures are current and accurate and those procedures have been reviewed as often as necessary; and failing to certify that the stationary source has evaluated compliance with the provisions of the prevention program at least every three years. PVS Technologies, Inc., accepted the ESA, certified that they resolved all violations, and paid a \$960.00 penalty to the U.S. Treasury.

Contact: Monika Chrzaszcz (312-886-0181)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Emergency Response, Ohio Flood Emergency Response, Hancock and Putman Counties, Ohio

During the week of August 20, 2007, a rain and subsequent flood event occurred on the Blanchard River in western Ohio. On August 23, 2007, the River crested at nearly 9 feet above flood level and six Ohio counties were subsequently declared "Disaster Areas" by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). As a result of the flooding, many containers were transported downstream. On August 29-30 and September 5, 2007, U.S. EPA performed road and river reconnaissance under a FEMA Mission Assignment to locate these containers. On September 26, 2007, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) requested assistance from U.S. EPA in responding to the waste in the Blanchard River. On October 4, 2007, U.S. EPA mobilized the Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) and Emergency and Rapid Removal Service (ERRS) contractors to establish a temporary staging area at the Hancock County Landfill and begin collecting containers. A total of five tanks, 21 drums, 3,000 small containers, and 10 compressed gas cylinders were removed from the Blanchard River and its tributaries in Hancock County.

On September 26, 2007, Ohio EPA requested assistance in Putnam County, Ohio. On October 2, 2007, U.S. EPA contractors were mobilized to Putnam County and a total of two tanks, 37 drums, 50 small containers, and 10 compressed gas cylinders were removed from the Blanchard River and its tributaries in Putnam County.

Contact: Jon Gulch (734-692-7686)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES**TOPOFF 4 Exercise, U.S. EPA Region 5 Participation, Region 9**

During the week of October 15, 2007, Ann Whelan and Sheila Calovich of the Oil Section provided assistance to staff in Region 9 by serving as evaluators during the Top Officials 4 (TOPOFF 4) exercise. The scenario for the TOPOFF 4 exercise involved the detonation of dirty bombs in Arizona, Guam, and Portland. The exercise involved personnel from U.S. EPA Headquarters and several regions, as well as other Federal agencies. Ms. Calovich and Ms. Whelan served as evaluators in the U.S. EPA Region 9 Emergency Operations Center. Ms. Calovich evaluated the Resource Unit, the Documentation Unit, and the Finance Section. Ms. Whelan evaluated the Situation Unit, the Watch Standard, and the Regional Incident Coordination Team (RICT).

Contacts: Sheila Calovich (353-1505)
Ann Whelan (886-7258)

Meetings, Western Lake Superior Port Area Committee, Duluth, Minnesota and Laurium, Michigan

On October 11, 2007, the Western Lake Superior Port Area Committee (PAC) meetings were held in Duluth, Minnesota, and in Laurium, Michigan. The PAC meetings are chaired by the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Duluth, and are attended by a wide variety of local, State, and Federal government representatives, as well as local industry. The PACs meet semi-annually to discuss spill response and security issues in the area. Specific items discussed at these meetings include updates on local issues and concerns, an overview of the National Pollution Funds Center, a description of resources at risk at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and an update of items in the local Maritime Security plans. At the Houghton, Michigan, meeting, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Michelle Jaster provided an overview of recent U.S. EPA removal actions in Michigan's Upper Peninsula at the Lake Linden, Torch Lake, and Florida Gas sites.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

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